

in my original information. The species which was called *D. manniana* is now officially described as *Drosera manii* Cheek. I'm glad to see that Phill Mann is recognized for his discovery. I'm sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

Ernest Taniguchi (45-1040D Wailele Rd.; Kanoeha HI 96744-3153 USA) writes:

I've been trying to read as much literature I can find on the genus *Biovularia* and *Polypompholyx*. After the 1942 publication of Lloyd's *Carnivorous Plants*, *Biovularia* seems to have disappeared in literature. My guess is that it has been lumped into *Utricularia*. (True, ed.) I would like to know some background on what has occurred over the years. Maybe some knowledgeable readers could send in an article and make a few references on literature.

Also, I would like to see color pictures of the genus *Genlisea* published in CPN. I hope someone may have photos they can send to ICPS for future issues.

Ed. note: The March and June, 1991 issues were combined in a special issue devoted to Peter Taylor and his work on *Utricularia*.

First Verified Reported Case Of *Sporotrichosis* In An ICPS Member

By Don Schnell

Several years ago, we reported in an issue of CPN a warning from governmental agricultural authorities that dried, baled long fiber sphagnum moss was a carrier of the fungus that causes *Sporotrichosis*. Since then, the warning has appeared in several gardening magazines, and this has been picked up by ICPS members who have sent in several short items on it for CPN.

Sporotrichosis is caused by a locally invasive fungus that is capable of living in soils, and by extrapolation, soil-like substances such as sphagnum moss. Assuming the individual does not have some sort of immunity problem (in which case it could enter the body through the lungs by inhaling dusts), the usual mode of entry is through a small wound in the hands when the victim has been working soils. The first lesion is a raised, red papule which eventually ulcerates. If untreated, the fungus spreads up the superficial lymphatic vessels of the arm, causing more papules and ulcers along the way. In the elbow and armpit tissues are many structures along the course of these lymphatic vessels called lymph nodes ("lymph glands" by some), and when the organism reaches these, they swell and may abscess and drain. The disease has the worst prognosis if the armpit nodes get involved since from here it may enter the chest.

The initial treatment of choice is a special iodine solution given orally several drops per several doses daily with water. **(WARNING!—This solution should only be given out by a physician's prescription.** Do not attempt self treatment after self diagnosis with the commonly available tincture of iodine which is quite poisonous if taken by mouth!). Unfortunately, the solution causes variable digestive irritation and must be taken over a several months period.

The disease is not at all that common considering the number of people mulling around in gardens and soils. I saw my first and only case as a diagnosing pathologist in a rose bush grower in 1968. Having a propensity for remembering weird diseases, I had no trouble including it in the differential diagnosis and making the correct diagnosis after some simple tests. The patient responded nicely to treatment.

Now, we have at hand, a volunteered letter from Clyde Bramblett of Miami, Florida (he gave us permission to use his name) who seems to be the first ICPS member

to acquire this disease, at least as far as we know. The story is particularly interesting since CPN played so vital a role in catching it in time. Clyde's story is as follows:

"... I have been using sphagnum moss for potting material for thirty years (or more) and never gave it much thought as to being any problem— Let me now add my voice to the concern about the danger of infection from this medium. Sometime in the latter part of December (ed. note— His letter dated 1 Feb 91) I noticed I might be getting some type of infection from a fire ant bite on top of my wrist. Big deal— No problem—Right? I treated it with hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol and iodine(locally). It grew and became an open sore. When it became obvious that things were not getting any better, I finally went to a doctor. He prescribed some medication that cost \$91.00 to fill— it didn't help. The infection was growing fast now and had reached above my elbow. Then I remembered an article in CPN about a sphagnum moss problem. I went fumbling through old issues without success so I called my old friend Bruce Bednar who managed to find it in volume 13 dated March, 1984. There it was: *Sporotrichosis*. I took the newsletter to the doctor who, after reading it, agreed. I had seen three doctors, been in the hospital out- patient clinic, had lab cultures made, and spent quite a bit of money, and there it was in CPN all the time. I am now taking 40 drops of potassium iodide three times a day and have open sores from my hand to above my elbow and am hoping to see some good results soon."

In a follow up note a few weeks later, Clyde mentioned that all tolled, he had 12-15 open sores and that the iodide treatment was working since they were drying up.

Plant Versus Animus

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How would you like to be involved in a real-life man-eating plant story? Picture the one in the deepest jungle, where the explorer unexpectedly comes upon a huge, odd, malevolent plant. Getting too close, he finds the plant in sudden writhing motion, capturing and nearly consuming him. Sensational and sensationalized, yes?

Our culture has been treated to stories like these for hundreds of years. Furthermore, these tales are kin to older moving-plant stories that go back through much of recorded history, like this excerpt from the Book of Taliesin:

The oak marching swiftly made heaven and earth quake
He was a stout guardian against the enemy,
his name is much revered.
The blue bells fought
and caused great pain;
they crushed and were crushed, others were pierced through.

In fact there is some evidence that the Druids, priests of the Celts (from which Taliesin took his influence), practiced a sort of tree worship which involved members of the plant kingdom moving with self-contained power. They practiced dowsing. They held ceremony in deepest forests. The few accounts that exist of them hint at an animism for trees (the Roman poet Lucan, for instance).

Truth is stranger than fiction. And for legends to survive for hundreds of years, often elements of truth involved. One explanation for man-eating plant stories is